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1. Adventist Development and Relief Agency

General consultative status granted in 1997

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is an international non-governmental organization founded in 1956 to empower communities to address problems resulting from crisis or chronic distress. ADRA aims to achieve positive change through a portfolio of sustainable development and relief activities which are planned and implemented cooperatively. Portfolio areas include food security, primary health care, economic development, education, and disaster preparedness and response, and are performed in collaboration with local communities, local and international organizations and government agencies through information-sharing, participation in conferences, and field-level cooperation. ADRA is not affiliated with any non-governmental organization already in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

ADRA is a global network of over 130 ADRA offices (donor country, recipient country, and regional offices), backstopped by ADRA International. Network members (offices) operate in accordance with ADRA International statement of mission and work to fulfil the agency's charter through a portfolio of development and relief activities. The country office is the primary implementing entity in the ADRA network. All other entities (regional, donor, ADRA International) function as support services for the implementing country offices. These offices bear the primary responsibility for programme design, management, monitoring, and evaluation. Country offices are governed by country-level Boards of Directors, which provide strategic direction and review, make financial decisions bearing on the country offices, and decide on matters pertaining to staffing.

Since 1997, ADRA International has been increasingly active with the United Nations. Initial involvement was in the form of regular attendance at monthly meetings of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (formerly, Department of Humanitarian Assistance). As a regularly represented non-governmental organization, ADRA provided continual active support to the ongoing assessment and dialogue on how humanitarian development and relief agencies communicate with the Office and each other to provide coordinated response to humanitarian emergencies as they arise around the world. ADRA was active in sharing its experiences with other agencies present at the monthly meetings, resulting in increased mutual involvement with cutting-edge issues in humanitarian emergencies.

ADRA also had representation at:

(a) Earth Summit, 23-27 June 1997;

(b) General Assembly special session on the world drug problem, 8-10 June 1998;

(c) General Assembly special session on population and development, 30 June-2 July 1999;

(d) Fifty-second annual DPI-NGO Conference, 15-17 September 1999;

(e) 1999 Seoul International Conference of NGOs;

(f) Millennium Assembly and Summit in 2000.

In addition to these major meetings, ADRA has maintained involvement in the ongoing dialogue on issues such as development, relief, world hunger, landmines, economic development trends, refugee and internally displaced persons (IDP) issues, women's issues, food security, education, and disaster response.

ADRA is also an actively participating agency with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). Since early 1998, ADRA has been present at all of the UNHCR Executive Committee Standing Committee meetings. In cooperation with the International Conference of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) and InterAction, ADRA has joined with other international humanitarian organizations to give counsel to provide information feedback and engage in dialogue with UNHCR at local, regional and international levels. Currently, ADRA is actively working towards the signing of a framework agreement with UNHCR which will more clearly outline a mutual commitment to the alleviation of the plight of the world's refugees and internally displaced persons and improve the communication of financial and policy information for stronger working relationships at the field level.

In 1997, ADRA signed a global memorandum of understanding with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). Since then ADRA has been present at every annual review meeting in Rome. ADRA was asked to be a regular non-governmental organization observer at the WFP Annual Board and at its accompanying working sessions. At present, ADRA is involved in the drafting of a local country framework agreement which will serve as a model for specific country-level memoranda of understanding between local WFP offices and non-governmental organization country offices.

In addition to UNHCR and WFP, ADRA works closely with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Centre for Settlement (UNCHS), the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNCHR) and the World Health Organization (WHO) at field and international levels. ADRA is also in continuing dialogue with the World Bank for a closer cooperation between non-governmental organizations and World Bank initiatives.

ADRA is a member agency of CONGO and continues to be involved in CONGO activities, including board meetings and the CONGO General Assembly, recently held in Vienna, Austria.

In 1999 ADRA established an office near the United Nations in New York. This will allow representatives of the agency to have more consistent access to the pulse and information flow of the United Nations system. In addition to the representation in New York, ADRA has representatives in Geneva and Vienna who can maintain close cooperation with activities there. ADRA has also assigned local personnel at the headquarters of all of the economic commissions.

2. Equality Now

Special consultative status granted in 1997

Equality Now is an international human rights organization dedicated to the protection and promotion of women's rights around the world. Equality Now's mission is to end violence and discrimination against women and to gain universal recognition of women's rights as human rights through the mobilization of public pressure. With this in mind, the following long-term goals for the organization were outlined:

(a) To campaign for the reform of law and practices that discriminate against women;

(b) To contribute towards the global campaign to end violence against women;

(c) To promote the equal partnership of women in decision-making.

Issues of concern to Equality Now include trafficking in women, rape, domestic violence, female genital mutilation, denial of reproductive rights, and other forms of violence and discrimination against women which result in the degradation, enslavement, injury and death of girls and women every day. Equality Now documents violations of these rights and, through its international Women's Action Network, adds an international action component to support local and national efforts on behalf of women's rights and on behalf of individual women who are suffering human rights violations.

The Women's Action Network is the core of Equality Now. The Network consists of almost 10,000 groups and individuals in more than 100 countries around the world who take action in response to appeals on behalf of individual women, participate in campaigns on broader women's issues, and channel information on the status of women and violations of women's rights in their countries back through the Network. Appropriate actions designed to stop abuses or to implement effective preventive or remedial measures are addressed to Governments as well as, in some cases, non-governmental entities and individuals.

Beijing +5 campaign

In July 1999, Equality Now launched a year-long campaign to highlight the importance of accountability for the commitments made by Governments at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995). The Beijing +5 campaign focused on institutionalized gender discrimination in national laws to illustrate the failure by Governments to honour commitments made in the Beijing Platform for Action, adopted in Beijing, as well as other international legal agreements signed and ratified by those Governments. With the participation of national and local women's groups around the world, Equality Now researched and compiled selected texts of gender discriminatory laws and issued Women's Action 16.1, a report highlighting a cross-section of laws in 45 countries that discriminate against women with regard to personal status, marital status, economic status and violence against women. Twenty-eight groups from 25 countries, as well as regional groups representing Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Europe, partnered with Equality Now in this campaign. Several of the groups are working actively to

change the laws highlighted in the report as well as other discriminatory laws in their countries. The campaign called upon Governments to repeal or amend those laws prior to the Beijing +5 special session as a show of genuine commitment to the Platform for Action.

In addition to distributing the report to United Nations treaty-based bodies (such as the Human Rights Committee, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights), members of the international media and the Women's Action Network, Equality Now also sent the report to the heads of State of the countries highlighted in it and to their permanent representatives to the United Nations. Equality Now also sent representatives to ensure that the campaign was raised at each of the regional preparatory conferences, in Bangkok, Addis Ababa, Geneva, Beirut and Lima, and to the final preparatory conference in New York. Equality Now also raised the campaign in individual meetings with United Nations missions.

As part of the campaign, Equality Now organized a briefing at the United Nations on 11 October 1999, co-sponsored by the Group on Equal Rights for Women in order to familiarize government representatives with the report.

During the special session, as with the final preparatory conference, Equality Now facilitated the participation of international activists and organized and coordinated the attendance of activists from 21 countries in East and Central Europe. Equality Now also organized several events which focused on a performance piece entitled "Women Can't Wait!". Commissioned by Equality Now and written and performed by Sarah Jones, the piece brings to life the impact of discriminatory laws on the lives of women and girls around the world. The response to the piece was overwhelmingly positive, and subsequent media coverage highlighted the special session and the significance of the negotiations regarding discriminatory laws. Equality Now also held a press conference at the United Nations on 6 June with several of its campaign supporters and, throughout the week, met with representatives from women's groups in several countries and began collaboration with them on upcoming Women's Actions, including women's suffrage in Kuwait and honour killings in Jordan. Equality Now also presented a special performance for delegates in Conference Room 4, with an introduction by actress Gwyneth Paltrow and several open performances at Customs House.

Equality Now lobbied government delegates and non-governmental organization representatives to ensure that provisions providing for the repeal of discriminatory laws remained in the official version of the outcome document. Equality Now also suggested language for the combined non-governmental organization coalition document. Equality Now representatives also participated in the NGO consultation on 4 March 2000 and in several of the issue-based and regional caucuses.

Report for the Division for the Advancement of Women

In December 1997, Equality Now was recruited by the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat to serve as the international non-governmental organization to coordinate a global project on domestic violence against women, funded by UNIFEM. The project involved five

regional studies prepared by experts from the regions, who compiled information about new strategies and an evaluation of their impact. The overall objective of the project was to direct Governments, regional bodies, and civil society towards effective strategies at the national level. Drafts of the regional studies were prepared, and a meeting of the regional experts was held at the Division in August 1998. Subsequent revisions of the studies were made, and the final report will be published by the United Nations shortly.

Human Rights Committee

Since March 1995, Equality Now has been working to bring human rights violations against women to the attention of the Human Rights Committee. Working with women's rights groups in countries up for review by the Committee, Equality Now brings issues relating to women's rights to the attention of members of the Committee. Increasingly, the issues that Equality Now is raising with the Committee are being raised, in turn, by members of the Committee directly with the government delegations which appear before them to present their reports on compliance.

To date, Equality Now has raised concerns relating to violence against women, legally sanctioned discrimination, and reproductive rights in conjunction with its consideration of reports from Yemen, the United States, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong Province of China, Afghanistan, Guatemala, Zambia, Peru, Brazil, Lebanon, Colombia, India, Senegal, Lithuania, Sudan, Uruguay, Zimbabwe, Ecuador, Israel, Algeria, United Republic of Tanzania, Japan, Armenia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lesotho, Cambodia, Chile, Poland, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Morocco, Cameroon and Mongolia.

Equality Now is the only women's rights group participating in the work of the Human Rights Committee on a regular basis, and many of the women's rights issues raised by Equality Now have been included in the Committee's concluding observations. Through its submissions, Equality Now has advanced several new arguments under international law relating to women and human rights. The Committee has taken note of these new arguments, and several of them have been incorporated into the Committee's work.

Jessica Neuwirth, President of the Board, spoke on a panel organized by the United Nations Development Programme, entitled Transforming Legislation: Challenges and Good Practices, held at the United Nations on 6 March 2000.

In September 2000, Equality Now held a screening of the documentary film "Crimes of Honor" for government and United Nations representatives at the United Nations and worked with the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to develop a resolution against honour crimes which was adopted by the General Assembly in October 2000.

3. Indigenous World Association

Special consultative status granted in 1985

The aims of the Indigenous World Association are to provide education in the application of international human rights initiatives, law and processes and to promote the rule of law domestically and internationally in relation to the rights of indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, and uprooted peoples, and to inform the concerned groups and the general public in various countries about the achievements and work of the United Nations system in those fields. The means of achieving these aims include: documentation and information in English and Spanish; organization of conferences, seminars, forums, and course curricula; emergency meetings on urgent situations; cooperation with other non-governmental organizations in the field; consultations with Governments, international and intergovernmental organizations and organs, with private institutions and religious bodies, regarding the rights of vulnerable peoples; participation in all relevant United Nations forums.

Since its founding the organization has sent indigenous delegations to the following annual United Nations meetings: Commission on Human Rights and its Working Group on the [indigenous] draft declaration; the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (formerly the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities), and its Working Group on Indigenous Populations, and the Working Group on Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, all held annually in Geneva. Included in the organization's delegations to those meetings are representatives of indigenous communities which the organization trains to work within the Council to promote the human rights of indigenous peoples. The first trainee was Rigoberta Menchú Tún, Quiche leader from Guatemala, later Nobel Laureate (1992) and Special United Nations Ambassador for the Year of the World's Indigenous People (1993) and the United Nations International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995-2004). The co-director of the Indigenous World Association accompanied and trained Ms. Menchú during the relevant 1982-1983 meetings of the United Nations, including the eighteenth session of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the first session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations; the 1982 session of the General Assembly and the 39th session of the Commission on Human Rights. The organization participated in the planning meetings in New York and Geneva for the Fourth World Conference on Women and sent five representatives from five Latin American, African and Asian countries to the Conference in Beijing (September 1995). It was instrumental in planning and operating the indigenous centre (tent) at the parallel NGO conference. The organization has made a priority the planning for the 2001 World Conference against Racism and sent a six-member delegation to the Americas Preparatory Committee meeting (Santiago, December 2000). The organization also participated in the activities surrounding the ongoing United Nations Decade for Indigenous Peoples.

The organization is included in the special list of non-governmental organizations which cooperate with the International Labour Organization in Geneva. Since its founding, the organization has cooperated closely with UNHCR, particularly in Central America and Mexico, observing the situation of indigenous refugees. The Co-Director of the organization was an honorary guest of UNHCR at its regional conference on Central American refugees.

The Indigenous World Association provides information to Governments and non-governmental organizations in support of all resolutions concerning indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, and migrant workers. The organization regularly consults and cooperates with various officials of the United Nations Secretariat, in particular at the United Nations offices in Geneva. It cooperated closely with the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations during its tenure of existence. Since its founding, the Association has paid particular attention to the increase in indigenous communities becoming refugees in neighbouring countries or internally displaced within their own States. In this regard, the organization has cooperated with a number of institutions in field-level collaboration and joint sponsorship of meetings, seminars and studies, including the Refugee Studies Programme at the University of Oxford, the Latin American Studies Association, and the Secretariat of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues in Geneva. To promote education about indigenous refugees, the organization has contributed five articles to the UNHCR magazine, *Refugees*, on the history of indigenous displacement during the colonizations of the western hemisphere. Since most of the indigenous representatives of the organization hold doctorate or law diplomas and teach at the university level, Indigenous World Association also specializes in developing curricula and materials for higher education. The organization was invited to consult with The Global Center on its video project "Rights and Wrongs Educational Media Project", and the Co-Director of the Indigenous World Association is a member of its Advisory Board. The organization also consulted in 1998 on the prize-winning, full-length documentary film, "Blacks and Jews", produced by Snitow-Kaufman Productions and on their new documentary on ethnicity and class in the electronics industry.

The Indigenous World Association was instrumental in establishing the International Year of the World's Indigenous People (1993) and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1994-2004).

4. International Black Sea Club

Special consultative status granted in 1997

The International Black Sea Club (IBSC) was created in 1992 as an independent (non-governmental), voluntary, non-commercial, self-governing organization.

The aims and purposes of the Club are the following:

(a) To combine the efforts of the cities (communities) of the Black Sea countries for solving common tasks related to the Black Sea coast;

(b) To participate in programmes and projects for preserving the environmental equilibrium of the Black Sea coastal territory;

(c) To organize an exchange of economic (commercial) information;

(d) To assist the development of tourism;

(e) To participate in national and international events on the use, study and preservation of the Black Sea;

(f) To establish contacts between the economic units and governmental administrative bodies of the corresponding countries.

The Club undertook a number of projects on economic and cultural cooperation among the city-members. For example, in 1998 it organized a programme for shipping companies.

Representatives of the Club are working on a Black Sea encyclopaedic dictionary.

The Club also carried out some environmental programmes, and took part in the Meeting of Aquapolises (Piraeus, April 1997).

With the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Business Council, IBSC is participating in the project Black Sea Business Informational Net.

IBSC is in the process of creating an agency to attract investments.

In October 1998 a new structure of the Club was established — the International Black Sea Club Business Council (IBSC BC). Heads of Chambers of Commerce and industry and business circles from IBSC city-members were accepted as members of IBSC BC.

IBSC established a newspaper, *IBSC News*.

Club members adopted a number of appeals; for example, they appealed to the Congress of Local Authorities concerning support for municipalities;

IBSC city-members participated in the EC programme for Yugoslavian reconstruction, Balkan Stability.

During the period of 1997-2000 the International Black Sea Club did not participate in any United Nations events and projects, because of lack of information about United Nations activities. In 2000, IBSC received an invitation to take part in the Millennium Forum, and in the Women 2000 Forum. Unfortunately, representatives of IBSC were unable to attend those meetings.

5. International Confederation of Christian Family Movements

Special consultative status granted in 1989

The International Confederation of Christian Family Movements was formed in Caracas, Venezuela, in 1966 with the aim of helping its members to live their human and Christian vocations and bear witness to the essential values of families, based upon the Faith as announced by the Gospel and proposed by the teachings of the Catholic Church. The members are families who endure an ongoing training by participating in groups. These groups comprise an organization called Christian Family Movement (Movimiento Familiar Cristiano).

All groups meet on a bi-monthly or monthly basis. Each country holds meetings, to revise objectives, set new targets and elect new staff. Almost every country issues a newsletter at the national level. A bulletin called *Link* (*Lazo* in Spanish) is published internationally.

- **ACT** No. 7, October 2000 — issued by the Christian Family Movement in North America.

- **El Movimiento Familiar Cristiano INFORMA** No. 66, December 2000 edited in Spain.

Activities

Europe

The continental meeting of the Christian Family Movement in Europe met in Braga (Portugal) in 1997. In September 1998, it attended the Landegg Academy University in Switzerland, and gave a talk on the family to students. It visited several Eastern European countries (Croatia, Hungary, Slovenia) to spread word of the Movement. In Prague, the first continental meeting of the Confederation in a former socialist country was held.

North America

In July 1999 the Christian Family Movement in the United States celebrated the 50th Anniversary of its foundation. Signs of growth are apparent in the north-west, south-west and Florida. It published the following books: *Families of Faith: Remembering the Past, Embracing the Future*; *The Second 25 years of the Christian Family Movement*; *Living the Jubilee: New Growth from Fallow Fields*.

The Movimiento Familiar Cristiano had its national convention in San Diego.

Africa

The Movement in Africa celebrated the International Day of the Family (15 May). It collaborated with the health programmes in Cameroon, where malaria has diminished. Members have embarked on self-help projects on small cocoa and coffee farms. The Movement met with Moslems to pray for peace and against national disasters.

Asia

All of the training programmes for couples, families, youth, priests, solo parents, engaged couples, young adults etc. are carried out at the parish level, especially in the Philippines. In November 2000, Tagaytay City (Manila) hosted the continental meeting of the Christian Family Movement, with six countries form Asia attending.

Latin America

In 1997 the members of the Movement met with Pope John Paul II in Rio de Janeiro. In 1998, at a meeting in Maceió, Brazil, the Board for Latin America set the plan for the coming years for strengthening the Christian Family Movement. Spirituality, Ethics and Justice are to be the pillars. In 1999 and 2000, the continental conventions were held, but split in three zones (north, central and south).

World assemblies

The Seventh World Assembly of Families and the Eleventh General Assembly of the International Confederation of Christian Family Movements held an assembly in Bangkok, Thailand, from 28 July to 2 August 1998. The theme was

"Humanization of all families in the world". Representatives of 22 countries attended.

The next World Assembly will be held in Maceió, Brazil, from 25 to 29 July 2001, with the theme "Ethics of life in a globalized and excluding world".

Cooperation with the United Nations

Due to lack of funds, the Confederation has not been able to attend the meetings of the Commission on Social Development in New York, although it is very interested in its decisions insofar as they affect the family. The Confederation has been asked to participate in UNICEF, but for the same reason, it finds it difficult to attend the sessions. The only thing it can do is to pass on to its members the communications and resolutions of the United Nations. No more active role is possible so far.

6. International Islamic Charitable Organization

Special consultative status granted in 1997

The International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) is an independent non-political multicultural worldwide philanthropy organization. Its activities are primarily in social, economic, educational, health, and cultural areas. The work is purely humanitarian, without any racial or ethnic distinction.

IICO does not simply raise funds and spend them but also works hard to ensure that the funds are raised and used effectively, and that the services it offers are tailored to meet the needs of those who are taking advantage of them. In addition to investing its funds in long-term projects, that generate maximum returns so as to secure permanent and stable resources for charities, IICO supports urgent relief programmes of food, shelter and medical supplies for refugees and victims of wars and disasters.

IICO participated in many meetings, seminars, and conferences of the United Nations bodies and specialized agencies such as UNHCR, UNESCO, and IFAD. The representative of IICO in the United States attended the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly — Women 2000 — which was held in New York in June 2000.

IICO conducted several studies with IFAD and took part in training and rehabilitation programmes in poor countries. IFAD participated in the planning and offered technical and financial support to the programmes. IICO participated in the seminars conducted by UNESCO for discussing the design of integrated training programmes in poor countries, and with ILO, through its office in Kuwait, coordinated programmes for professional training for the needy. Through its main office in Geneva and its office in Kuwait, IICO is fully cooperating with UNHCR in relief aid and preparedness for disasters.

IICO has a cooperation agreement with the International Islamic Education, Science and Culture Organization (IISESCO) and attended three of its sessions in Tunisia, Chad, and Jordan.

7. International Planned Parenthood Federation

General consultative status granted in 1973

The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) is the world's largest non-governmental organization working to advocate sexual and reproductive rights and provide quality reproductive health and family planning information and services. Working in more than 150 countries with hundreds of thousands of volunteers worldwide, the Federation works at all levels to increase support for sexual and reproductive health and family planning, collaborating worldwide with Governments, international non-governmental and community organizations.

IPPF has long had a close working relationship with many agencies and funds of the United Nations, at the national, regional and international levels, and has signed memorandums of understanding with a number of agencies. This report, covering the Federation's key contributions to international meetings and events, 1997-2000, is by no means an exhaustive report owing to the limitations of the reporting format.

ICPD+5

IPPF was actively involved in all stages of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly devoted to a review of the results of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD+5). IPPF was one of three non-governmental organizations to address the special session. In her statement the IPPF Director-General reiterated IPPF's firm belief that poverty alleviation and balanced population growth, along with sustainable development, human rights and global equality, were critical in the overall development process.

During ICPD+5 a series of "Face to Face" testimonies were organized by IPPF as part of the joint global advocacy campaign with UNFPA. The themes of the sessions included female genital mutilation (FGM), services of refugees, safe motherhood and HIV/AIDS.

IPPF's European network hosted a discussion during the Preparatory Committee sessions for delegates from European and developing countries, focusing on emergency contraception and adolescent sexual and reproductive health.

IPPF participated in the UNFPA expert roundtable meetings on youth, reproductive rights and the role of civil society, held in 1998, in preparation for ICPD+5.

More than 70 family planning associations were represented at The Hague Forum, and IPPF was a member of the NGO and Youth Advisory Groups, as well as the issue focal point for reproductive rights, with responsibility for organizing a panel discussion on rights at the NGO Forum. The IPPF President chaired the closing session of the NGO Forum.

Throughout 1998 and 1999 IPPF circulated a monthly ICPD+5 news bulletin to all partners and affiliates. An ICPD+5 section was set up on IPPF's Web site to provide updated coverage of the meetings and events. IPPF also organized a series

of ICPD+5 regional media seminars, to sensitize media and stimulate interest in issues of population and development.

Beijing +5

A reproductive rights wall chart 2000 was produced by IPPF for the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (Beijing +5). It focused on the status of women's legal rights, especially those affecting their sexual and reproductive rights. A special edition of *X-press*, the IPPF youth newsletter, focusing on gender from a global youth perspective and including the Beijing +5 review, was published in English, French and Spanish. It included calls for a range of actions to be taken by the General Assembly. Also during the Beijing +5 session, IPPF issued two statements — one calling for global support for young people's sexual and reproductive rights and the other, prepared by IPPF's International Medical Advisory Panel (IMAP) on gender-based violence, calling for a widened campaign to end violence against women.

At Beijing +5 IPPF participated in the Global Women's Health Forum, was co-sponsored by the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA), an affiliate of IPPF. The IPPF Assistant Director-General gave a presentation on safe motherhood and spoke about young people's needs with regard to sexual and reproductive health. An IPPF policy advisor was a speaker at another workshop, on reproductive health and rights at the Forum, and IPPF's film *Lifelines*, which illustrates the basic human rights featured in the IPPF Charter on Sexual and Reproductive Rights, was shown.

The Director of Sexual and Reproductive Health of the IPPF's western hemisphere regional office was the moderator of two parallel sessions at the Forum — one on gender-based violence and one on integrating gender into population and health programmes.

IPPF also took part in the panel discussion during Beijing +5 on "Early marriage: whose right to choose?". The panel was organized by UNICEF and a network of non-governmental organizations based in the United Kingdom, the Forum on Marriage and Rights of Women and Children, of which IPPF is one of the founding members.

At the regional level, IPPF's European Network participated in the ECE regional preparatory conference (Geneva, January 2000) and organized a workshop on "Women's sexual and reproductive health and rights" in the ECE region.

In the Arab world IPPF participated in the Second Arab Meeting on the Beijing Conference Follow-up (December 1998), organized by ESCWA and UNFPA and focusing on women, reproductive health and development. The region participated in a Beijing +5 consultative workshop to strengthen national capacity for the elimination of practices harmful to women in the eastern Mediterranean region. A regional consultation on gender and development was organized by the IPPF regional office in September 2000 to plan regional activities in the light of the Beijing +5 recommendations.

Copenhagen+5

Representatives from IPPF participated at the Copenhagen+5 special session (Geneva, 2000) and disseminated IPPF's position vis-à-vis issues of population, development and sexual and reproductive health.

Commission on the Status of Women/Commission on Population and Development

IPPF regularly sends representatives to observe and contribute, where appropriate, to the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and Commission on Population and Development.

8. League of Women Voters of the United States

Special consultative status granted in 1997

Mission and principles

The League of Women Voters (LWV), a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. National LWV activities are coordinated and staffed by two distinct but complementary organizations. The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) is the political advocacy and membership organization; the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF), established in 1957, is the citizen education and research organization.

The League of Women Voters believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States. The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible. The League believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; that every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination. It believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government. It believes that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; that government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems that affect the general welfare, promote a sound economy and adopt domestic policies that facilitate the solution of international problems.

LWV has chapters in every state in the United States and has approximately 1,000 local chapters in communities across the country. It has over 130,000 members and supporters in the United States. Local LWV members feel a special commitment to inform their communities about the United Nations and the work it accomplishes and to urge financial support for the United Nations. In order to help local LWVs to do this, its United Nations observers write articles for the LWV magazine.

The League of Women Voters believes that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems and that international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

Activities relating to the work of the Council

Observers from LWV participated in the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Beijing + 5 special session of the General Assembly as well as their preparations. Its observers attended all of the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women after the Beijing Conference, and spoke to many members of the Commission and other governmental delegates about the needs of the girl child, women and mental health issues. Working with the members of NGO coalitions, wording on these issues was drafted and suggested to government delegates. Some wording was adopted by the delegates and used in outcome documents or other documents.

LWV was one of the co-sponsors of a United States regional conference, organized by the President's Interagency Council of Women, entitled Women 2000: Beijing Plus Five (6 November 1999, Wilmington, Delaware), to prepare for the upcoming special session of the General Assembly.

The League of Women Voters of the United States joined several other non-governmental organizations in signing a written statement on behalf of the girl child which was presented at the Commission on the Status of Women session in March 2000. It was accredited to attend and sent its observers to the special session of the General Assembly on gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century, which took place in June 2000.

Activities relating to United Nations agencies

A special interest of the LWV observers at the United Nations has been the Steering Committee for the NGO Committee for UNICEF and its Working Group on Girls, which works to focus the attention of world Governments on the plight of girls. It held caucus meetings daily at United Nations conferences and meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women. The Working Group formed a world-wide advocacy network working on behalf of the girl child and used information obtained from the network to prepare reports on the situation of girls which were presented to delegates at United Nations meeting. LWV was accredited to attend the preparatory meetings for the General Assembly special session in 2001 on the follow-up to the World Summit for Children. LWV observers attended the first session of the Preparatory Committee and intend to attend the remaining sessions. LWV observers worked with a caucus on the rights of the child and provided input to UNICEF on wording for the preparatory document.

Other Activities

In September 1997, the president of the League of Women Voters spoke at the DPI/NGO annual conference. In 1997 and 1998, one of the LWV observers served as secretary of the DPI/NGO Executive Committee and contributed a great deal to

the work of the Committee. The LWV observers also contribute to the work of several CONGO committees. The LWV United Nations observers attend the DPI briefings, meetings of the United States Committee for UNIFEM, and United States Mission briefings. One of the observers served on the Board of the New York chapter of the United States Committee for UNIFEM.

Promoting democracy

The goal of the LWV programmes for promoting democracy in America is to promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive; that protects individual liberties established by the Constitution and that assures opportunities for citizen participation in government decision-making.

Internationally, the LWV's Global Democracy Initiative (GDI) is a three-part training programme for grassroots women leaders in emerging democracies. It brings women leaders from around the world to the United States for intensive training giving participants the opportunity to experience the LWV's non-partisan, grassroots approach to citizen involvement in democratic politics. Grassroots Partnership Training programmes allow participants to move into the role of trainers and conduct workshops for diverse activists in their home countries. Workshops explore grassroots civic education techniques and organizational development skills. With the Grassroots Assistance Grants Programme, LWV provides financial and technical assistance to interns for independently developed projects.

Targeting women as increasingly powerful voices in demanding accountability and good government in their societies, GDI expands community influence in public policy-making processes while building women's leadership skills through interactive, hands-on training and exchange programmes.

Through its international training and exchange programmes, LWV has assisted a variety of grassroots leaders and organizations in Latin America, Eastern Europe and the Balkans, Africa, and the newly independent States. LWV programmes have given concrete skills such as media outreach, educational campaign development, advocacy, strategic planning and volunteer management to participants.

Promoting United Nations funding in the United States Congress

LWV actively supported the establishment of the United Nations in 1945 and has been one of its most steadfast proponents for more than 50 years. LWV is an active member of the Council of Organizations of the United Nations Association/USA, and one of the LWV observers served as chair of its New York Council. LWV believes that the United States should pay its obligations to the United Nations expeditiously and without restrictions. As part of a diverse, bipartisan coalition in support of the United Nations, LWV has lobbied key members of Congress on payment of United States arrears to the United Nations and activated key state Leagues on the issue. The League of Women Voters made a statement at the 1999 Candlelight Vigil for the United Nations to urge fulfilment of United States financial obligations to the United Nations (23 October 1999).

9. Qatar Charitable Society

Special consultative status granted in 1997

Qatar Charitable Society is a non-governmental, non-profit and non-political society, Qatar-based, established in the early 1980s under the name Qatar Committee for Orphans. Due to the expansion of its services, the founders resolved to expand the aims and objectives and transformed the Committee into the present Qatar Charitable Society.

The aims and objectives of the Society centre on social, financial, health and educational services, including vocational training to orphans and widows. These were later extended to students, teachers and the disabled. The Society is involved in income-generating activities for poor families, provision of water and sanitation services, and emergency relief services mainly for refugees and communities hit by disaster.

Another activity is the Muslim-related provision of free meals during the month of fasting (Ramdan) and the distribution of sacrificial animals (a sacred Muslin act). The Society provides the same for non-Muslims living in the vicinity of Muslims.

The Society also engages in other charitable services, mainly the construction of hospitals, clinics and schools and, wherever possible, the provision of medical equipment to the newly built or existing facilities.

Women receive great attention from the Society, stemming from its services to windows. The Society established a parallel women's branch, active in the advocacy of women's issues, women's education, social services and income generation.

The Society's membership has increased to 60 members. It has built up a field presence in 48 countries worldwide.

The Society is a member of the following regional and international bodies: International Islamic Council for Dawa and Relief (Cairo); Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Rabat); Arab Network for NGOs (Cairo); International Islamic Charitable Organization (Kuwait); and Gulf Disability Society (Bahrain).

The Society is affiliated and has good relations with the Arab Gulf Fund for the United Nations Development Programme (AGFUND) and the Islamic Development Bank.

The Society had little relation with United Nations agencies before it was recognized by the Council in 1997 and by UNHCR in 1998. Since then the Society has held a number of working meetings with UNHCR in Geneva, Riyadh and Doha, which resulted in the following joint activities:

(a) A representative of the Society attended the UNHCR Executive Committee meeting in March 1999 at Geneva;

(b) A framework agreement for operational partnership between UNHCR and the Society was signed in March 1999 at Geneva;

(c) The Society assisted the UNHCR shelter, water and sanitation projects for Chechen refugees and displaced persons in Ingushetia with an amount totalling US$ 600,500 during 1999-2000;

(d) The Society participated in funding UNICEF water and sanitation projects for Chechen displaced persons in Ingushetia with a total of US$ 250,000;

(e) A joint UNHCR and Qatar Charitable Society workshop on law for the protection of refugees was convened (Doha, 17-18 October 2000) and was attended by local non-governmental organizations and representatives from Kuwait and Bahrain non-governmental organizations;

(f) A cooperation agreement between UNHCR and the Society was signed at Doha on 18 October 2000;

(g) Meetings were held between UNHCR and the Society's Kosovo office to work out joint project proposals for funding and joint implementation for the year 2001;

(h) The Society earmarked US$ 250,000 for continuing the water and sanitation services for the Chechen internally displaced persons;

(i) The Society allocated US$ 96,500 for the rehabilitation of the Barevo (Bosnia) village clinic and school, in response to a UNHCR appeal;

(j) A Society staff member, chosen by the UNHCR Riyadh office, attended a United Nations staff college training course in early warning and preventive measures (Dubai, September 2000);

(k) A Society representative participated in a workshop on building non-governmental organizations' capacities towards fulfilling and following up on the global conferences resolutions (Cairo, 19-21 September 2000), organized by ESCWA and the Arab League;

(l) The Society adviser attended the Social Summit and also participated in the Geneva 2000 Forum (Geneva, June 2000);

(m) The Society received an ESCWA consultant on social development.

The Society believes, that its endeavours to alleviate poverty and care for the needy, especially orphaned refugee children and widowed mothers, and to provide clean water, healthcare, emergency relief and education is nothing other than putting many United Nations resolutions into effect.

At present the Society is engaged in advocating networking with the internationally active Gulf non-governmental organizations, for which a preparatory committee was chosen, headed by the Society. Its secretariat is hosted by the Society.

10. World Vision International

Special consultative status granted in 1985

World Vision is one of the world's largest recipients of donated funds from the general public for relief, development and advocacy activities. The implementation of its programmes draws World Vision into direct partnership with United Nations

agencies in developing States and at the international level. World Vision contributes to United Nations forums, events and consultation processes. In the period since 1997 World Vision has been actively involved in some of the most high-profile United Nations events relating to development, including the People's Millennium Forum, the special session of the General Assembly on social development (Geneva 2000), and World HIV/AIDS conferences. Activities at these high-profile events have, however, been complemented by ongoing daily cooperation through forums such as the Board of the NGO Committee on UNICEF and the Executive Board of the World Health Organization.

Aims and purposes

World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy partnership which serves more than 70 million people in 87 countries. World Vision works with the poor and oppressed in the pursuit of justice and human transformation. World Vision recognizes that poverty is not inevitable. Its mission statement calls it to challenge the unjust structures that constrain the poor. World Vision desires that all people should be able to reach their God-given potential, and thus its vision is to work for a world that no longer tolerates poverty.

Participation in United Nations events, conferences and processes

In 1997 World Vision representatives participated in the meeting of the Steering Group of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). World Vision also provided a panellist for a joint United Nations Centre for Human Rights/WHO workshop during the annual meeting of the Commission on Human Rights. World Vision participated in a joint WTO/Trade and Development Board symposium on trade and development. World Vision provided an article for UNAIDS to mark World AIDS Day. In 1998 staff participated in meetings of the Commission on Human Rights (May, Geneva) and the Second Ministerial Conference of the WTO (April, Geneva). It also took part in the twelfth World AIDS Conference (July, Geneva). In January 1999 World Vision participated in the intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on Human Rights of Migrants, organized by UNHCR. In March 1999 World Vision contributed to the Round Table Conference on Women and Health (Geneva). World Vision was represented at the World Health Assembly (May, Geneva). In June 1999 World Vision participated in the ILO Annual Assembly and provided input through child-caucuses towards the adoption of a new child labour convention. In the same month World Vision contributed to a global consultation globalized by WHO on the eradication of poliomyelitis. In November 1999 World Vision was represented at the ministerial meetings of the WTO in Seattle. In December 1999 World Vision also participated in a WHO conference on Pharmaco-vigilance and Related Ethical Issues. In February 2000 World Vision was represented at the tenth meeting of UNCTAD in Bangkok and was one of the non-governmental organizations to address the plenary. In March World Vision participated in the UNESCO Symposium on a Culture of Peace. In May World Vision participated in the People's Millennium Forum in New York and was represented at the follow-up meeting to the (Beijing) Fourth World Conference on Women. This representation included enabling youth participants to attend from developing States. In June 2000, World Vision participated in the

special session of the General Assembly on social development (Geneva) to review the progress made since the conference in Copenhagen in 1995. World Vision organized two workshops as part of the Forum on the issues of child rights and development assistance. In 2000 World Vision cooperated extensively with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on children in armed conflict in organizing an NGO consultation in New York, in March and taking part in an NGO "Arria Formula" briefing to the Security Council in August. In September World Vision organized a workshop as part of the agenda of the annual general meetings of the meetings of the World Bank and IMF. In November 2000 World Vision participated in the Vienna meetings of CONGO.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In February 1997 World Vision became the first chair of the newly formed International NGO Forum for Health, which partners with WHO. World Vision also participated in board meetings of the NGO Committee of UNICEF in 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000. World Vision provided substantial input to the process of identifying and implementing possible reforms of that Committee. World Vision also participated in Preparatory Committee meetings associated with UNCTAD X, the special sessions of the General Assembly for children, and will participate in the forthcoming conference on the least developed countries. World Vision has participated annually in the Standing Committee of UNHCR and the Executive Board of WHO. In June 1999 World Vision participated in the NGO Board meeting of UNCTAD in Geneva. In May 2000 World Vision participated in the General Management Board meetings of UNAIDS and also the annual conference of the ILO. World Vision regularly attends NGO briefings conducted by the Department of Public Information and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Geneva and New York.

Action in support of United Nations resolutions or of another collaborative nature

World Vision participates in a range of coalitions that seek to support United Nations resolutions and conventions, particularly the Convention on the Rights of the Child. World Vision is a member of the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Steering Committee of the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies, and it has status as an international ecumenical organization with the World Council of Churches. World Vision has contributed research and analysis to United Nations processes to increase public awareness on such issues as child labour, trade, debt forgiveness, conflict prevention, children in armed conflict, children in development and the World Bank's Initiative on Poverty Reduction.